

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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A/ 1. A method for managing the connection of a plurality of devices connected to a
2 digital interface by a digital interface, the plurality of devices including operation modes
3 having a normal mode for performing a usual operation prescribed in the digital interface
4 standard and a private mode for performing an operation which selectively controls an
5 external device, the method comprising:
6 (a) a user sending a command requesting an operation mode be established in a
7 private mode to a first arbitrary device;
8 (b) establishing the private mode as the operation mode in the first device in response
9 to the user's command;
10 (c) the first device identifying devices having the right to access related registers to
11 store in the first device information relating to the identified devices;
12 (d) the first device determining whether there is a request for access to the related
13 registers by a third-party device;
14 (e) determining whether the third-party device is included in the previously stored
15 devices, if there is a request;
16 (f) the first device accepting the request of the third-party device if the third-party
17 device is determined to be included in the devices stored in (e); and
18 (g) the first device returning an error code to the third-party device, which indicates
19 that the first device cannot accept the request, if the third-party device is determined not to be
20 included in the devices stored in (e).

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2. The method of claim 1, wherein (a) comprises:

- (a-1) the user sending a request indicating that a bit stream output from the first device and displayed on a second device intends to be managed privately to the second device; and
- (a-2) the second device using a specific command to relay the request to the first device.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the specific command is a command defined in an audio-video control command transaction set for performing the control of audio/video signals including a bit stream between digital devices connected through a digital interface on a bus shared by the devices.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the command is defined in an audio-video control command transaction set.

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5. The method of claim 1, wherein the operation mode is established on the basis of the overall device, subunit, or a specific output plug, and in (b), a private mode is established in the overall device, subunit, or a specific output plug.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein, in (c), if the first device establishes the private mode in the overall device, identification is performed with regard to devices pertaining to point-to-point or broadcast connection, while if the first device establishes the private mode in a specific unit or a specific output plug, the identification is made with regard to devices currently associated with subunit or output plug.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the request for access in (d) is a read
2 requesting for the third-party device to accept a bit stream

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the request for access in (d) is a lock
2 requesting to lock a bit stream output from the first device;

1 ~~sub~~ 9. The method as in any one of claims 1-8, wherein the digital interface conforms
2 ~~A3~~ to the IEEE 1394 standard.

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